



Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C083: Temporary Traffic Control (Shoulder Work) (B)

Introduction: Shoulder work can be dangerous if the proper safety precautions are not taken before beginning work. To avoid accidents or injury, shoulder work signs and channelizing devices should be erected to warn of maintenance, reconstruction, or utility operations. Following are safety guidelines for temporary traffic control where work is done on roadway shoulders:

Shoulder Work with Minor Encroachment:

- All lanes should be at least 10 feet wide to the near face of the channelizing devices. The lane can be 9 feet wide for short term use on low-volume, low-speed roads without heavy commercial vehicles.
- If the opposite shoulder is suitable and wide enough for traffic, shift lanes using closely spaced channelizing devices as long as they are 10 feet wide.
- Additional advance warning may be appropriate, such as a ROAD NARROWS sign.
- Use temporary traffic barriers (cones, drums, barricades, etc.) along the work space.

Where drivers can't see the end of the closed shoulder, place a supplementary plaque with NEXT X FEET or MILES.

Work on the Shoulder with No Encroachment:

- Use at least one advance warning sign when closing paved shoulders at least 8 feet wide. Use channelizing devices to close the shoulder in advance, to delineate the beginning of the work space and direct traffic.
- Warn drivers that disabled vehicles cannot get off the traveled way when closing shoulders on freeways and expressways with an initial general warning sign (such as ROAD WORK AHEAD), followed by a RIGHT or LEFT SHOULDER CLOSED sign.
- Where drivers cannot see the end of the closed shoulder, place a supplementary plaque bearing NEXT X FEET or MILES below the SHOULDER CLOSED sign.
- On multi-lane, divided highways, only place shoulder work signs on the side of the affected shoulder.
- When an improved shoulder is closed on a high-speed roadway, it should be treated as a closure of a portion of the road system.
- Give drivers ample advance warning that shoulders are closed for use as refuge areas throughout a specified length of approaching the work zone. The sign(s) should read SHOULDER CLOSED with distances indicated. The work space on the shoulder should be closed off by a taper or by channelizing devices.
- When the shoulder is not occupied, but work has adversely affected its condition, use the appropriate LOW SHOULDER or SOFT SHOULDER sign.
- Where the condition extends longer than 1 mile, repeat the sign at one mile intervals with a supplementary plaque NEXT X MILES.
- Use temporary traffic barriers to inhibit encroachment of errant vehicles into the work space, and to protect workers.
- When used for shoulder work, arrow panels should operate only in the caution mode.

Shoulder Closure on Freeway:

- Shoulder closed signs should be used on limited-access highways where there is no opportunity for disabled vehicles to pull off the roadway.
- If drivers cannot see a pull-off area beyond the closed shoulder, information regarding the length of the shoulder closure should be provided in feet or miles, as appropriate.

Conclusion: When working on the shoulder of the road or highway, conditions are hazardous due to poor visibility, the speed of on-coming traffic, weather conditions, and poor signage placement. Always remember to place the SHOULDER WORK sign in advance of the activity area. Follow these Temporary Traffic Control safety guidelines for safe shoulder work.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.

1.4.2013 © Safety Services Company-This document may not be reproduced in any way without the express permission of Safety Services Company.